

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

ANNA LORENA NUILA DE
GADALAMARIA, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WILLIS GROUP HOLDINGS PUBLIC
LIMITED COMPANY, *et al.*,

Defendants.

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Civil Action No. 3:13-CV-02572-N

FINAL JUDGMENT AND BAR ORDER

By Order entered August 23, 2017 (the “Final Bar Order”), this Court approved a proposed settlement (the “Willis Settlement”) among and between Ralph S. Janvey, the Receiver for the Stanford Receivership Estate in *SEC v. Stanford International Bank, Ltd, et al.*, Civil Action No. 3:09-CV-0298-N (the “SEC Action”) and a plaintiff in *Janvey, et al. v. Willis of Colorado Inc., et al.*, Civil Action No. 3:13-cv-03980-N-BG (the “Janvey Litigation”); the Court-appointed Official Stanford Investors Committee (the “Committee”) as a party to the SEC Action and a plaintiff in the Janvey Litigation; and Samuel Troice, Martha Diaz, Paula Gilly-Flores, Punga Punga Financial, Ltd., Manuel Canabal, Daniel Gomez Ferreiro and Promotora Villa Marino, C.A. (collectively, the “Investor Plaintiffs”), plaintiffs in the Janvey Litigation (Messrs. Troice and Canabal only) and in *Troice, et al. v. Willis of Colorado Inc., et al.*, Civil Action No. 3:09-cv-01274-L (the “Troice Litigation”);¹ and the Willis Defendants.² The Court-

¹ The Receiver, the Committee, and the Investor Plaintiffs are referred to collectively as the “Troice-Janvey Plaintiffs.”

² The “Willis Defendants” refers, collectively, to Willis Towers Watson Public Limited Company (f/k/a Willis Group Holdings Limited), Willis Limited, Willis North America Inc. (“Willis NA”), Willis of Colorado, Inc., Willis of Texas, Inc., and Amy S. Baranoucky.

appointed Examiner signed the Willis Settlement Agreement³ as chair of the Committee, and as Examiner solely to evidence his support and approval of the Willis Settlement and to confirm his obligations to post the Notice on his website, but is not otherwise individually a party to the Willis Settlement, the Janvey Litigation, or the Troice Litigation.

I. INTRODUCTION

The SEC Action, the Troice Litigation, the Janvey Litigation, and this case all arise from a series of events relating to the collapse of Stanford International Bank, Ltd. (“SIBL”). On February 16, 2009, this Court appointed Ralph S. Janvey to be the Receiver for SIBL and related parties (the “Stanford Entities”). [SEC Action ECF No. 10]. After years of diligent investigation, the Troice-Janvey Plaintiffs believe that they have identified claims against a number of third parties, including the Willis Defendants, that the Troice-Janvey Plaintiffs claim enabled the Stanford Ponzi scheme. The Troice-Janvey Plaintiffs and the plaintiffs in this action allege, *inter alia*, that certain of the Willis Defendants aided and abetted the Stanford Ponzi scheme. In addition, in the Janvey Litigation, the Receiver and the Committee allege, *inter alia*, that certain of the Willis Defendants aided, abetted or participated in breaches of fiduciary duty, aided, abetted or participated in a fraudulent scheme, and aided, abetted or participated in fraudulent transfers. The Willis Defendants have always denied and continue to expressly deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing.

Lengthy, multiparty negotiations led to the Willis Settlement. In these negotiations, potential victims of the Stanford Ponzi scheme were well-represented. The Investor Plaintiffs, the Committee—which the Court appointed to “represent[] in this case and related matters” the

³ The “Willis Settlement Agreement” refers to the Settlement Agreement that is attached as Exhibit 1 of the Appendix to the Expedited Request for Entry of Scheduling Order and Motion to Approve Proposed Settlement with Willis, to Approve the Proposed Notice of Settlement with Willis, to Enter the Bar Order, and to Enter the Final Judgment and Bar Orders (the “Motion”) filed in the SEC Action and the Janvey Litigation.

“customers of SIBL who, as of February 16, 2009, had funds on deposit at SIBL and/or were holding certificates of deposit issued by SIBL (the ‘Stanford Investors’)” [SEC Action ECF No. 1149]—the Receiver, and the Examiner—who the Court appointed to advocate on behalf of “investors in any financial products, accounts, vehicles or ventures sponsored, promoted or sold by any Defendant in this action” [SEC Action ECF No. 322]—all participated in the extensive, arm’s-length negotiations that ultimately resulted in the Willis Settlement and the Willis Settlement Agreement. The parties reached an agreement-in-principle at a mediation with the retired Honorable Layn R. Phillips on March 31, 2016, and the parties executed the Willis Settlement Agreement in August 2016.

Under the terms of the Willis Settlement, Willis NA will pay \$120,000,000 to the Receivership Estate, which (less attorneys’ fees and expenses) will be distributed to Stanford Investors. In return, the Willis Defendants seek global peace with respect to all claims that have been, could have been, or could be asserted against any of the Willis Defendants and any of the Willis Released Parties by any Person arising out of or related to the events leading to these proceedings, and with respect to all claims that have been, could have been, or could be asserted against any of the Willis Defendants and any of the Willis Released Parties by any Person arising from or related to the Willis Defendants’ relationship with the Stanford Entities. Obtaining such global peace is a critical and material component of the Settlement. Accordingly, the Willis Settlement is conditioned on, among other things, the Court’s approval and entry of final bar orders enjoining any Person from asserting, maintaining or prosecuting claims against any of the Willis Defendants or any of the Willis Released Parties.

On September 28, 2016, the Troice-Janvey Plaintiffs filed the Motion in the SEC Action and the Janvey Litigation. [SEC Action ECF No. 2369]. The Court thereafter entered a

Scheduling Order on October 19, 2016 [SEC Action ECF No. 2409], which, *inter alia*, authorized the Receiver to provide Notice of the Willis Settlement, established a briefing schedule on the Motion, and set the date for a hearing. On January 20, 2017, the Court held the scheduled hearing. For the reasons set forth in the Final Bar Order and herein, the Court finds that the terms of the Willis Settlement Agreement are adequate, fair, reasonable, and equitable; and the Court approves the Willis Settlement. The Court further finds that entry of this Final Judgment and Bar Order is appropriate.

II. ORDER

It is hereby **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** as follows:

1. Terms used in this Final Judgment and Bar Order that are defined in the Willis Settlement Agreement, unless expressly otherwise defined herein, have the same meaning as in the Willis Settlement Agreement.

2. The Court has “broad powers and wide discretion to determine the appropriate relief in [this] equity receivership,” including the authority to enter the Final Bar Order. *SEC v. Kaleta*, 530 F. App’x 360, 362 (5th Cir. 2013) (internal quotations omitted); *see also SEC v. Parish*, 2010 WL 8347143 (D.S.C. Feb. 10, 2010). Moreover, the Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action, and the Troice-Janvey Plaintiffs are proper parties to seek entry of this Final Judgment and Bar Order.

3. The Court finds that the methodology, form, content and dissemination of the Notice: (i) were implemented in accordance with the requirements of the Scheduling Order; (ii) constituted the best practicable notice; (iii) were reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise all Interested Parties of the Willis Settlement, the Willis Settlement Agreement, the releases therein, and the injunctions provided for in this Final Judgment and Bar Order, the Final Bar Order to be entered in the SEC Action, and the Final Judgment and Bar Orders to be entered

in the Janvey Litigation and the Other Willis Litigation (to the extent pending before the Court);⁴ (iv) were reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise all Interested Parties of the right to object to the Willis Settlement, the Willis Settlement Agreement, this Final Judgment and Bar Order, the Final Bar Order to be entered in the SEC Action, and the Final Judgment and Bar Orders to be entered in the Janvey Litigation and the Other Willis Litigation (to the extent pending before the Court), and to appear at the Final Approval Hearing; (v) were reasonable and constituted due, adequate, and sufficient notice; (vi) met all applicable requirements of law, including, without limitation, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the United States Constitution (including Due Process), and the Rules of the Court; and (vii) provided to all Persons a full and fair opportunity to be heard on these matters.

4. The Court finds that the Willis Settlement was reached following an extensive investigation of the facts and resulted from vigorous, good faith, arm's-length, mediated negotiations involving experienced and competent counsel. The claims asserted against the Willis Defendants contain complex and novel issues of law and fact that would require a substantial amount of time and expense to litigate, with a significant risk that the Troice-Janvey Plaintiffs and the plaintiffs herein may not ultimately prevail on their claims. By the same token,

⁴ The "Other Willis Litigation" is defined in the Willis Settlement Agreement to include the 11 additional actions (including this action) relating to the same subject matter as the Troice Litigation and the Janvey Litigation: (i) *Ranni v. Willis of Colorado, Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 9-22085, filed on July 17, 2009 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida; (ii) *Rupert v. Winter, et al.*, Case No. 20090C116137, filed on September 14, 2009 in Texas state court (Bexar County); (iii) *Casanova v. Willis of Colorado, Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 3:10-CV-1862-O, filed on September 16, 2010 in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas; (iv) *Rishmague v. Winter, et al.*, Case No. 2011C12585, filed on March 11, 2011 in Texas state court (Bexar County); (v) *MacArthur v. Winter, et al.*, Case No. 2013-07840, filed on February 8, 2013 in Texas state court (Harris County); (vi) *Barbar v. Willis Group Holdings Public Limited Company, et al.*, Case No. 13-05666CA27, filed on February 14, 2013 in Florida state court (Miami-Dade County); (vii) *de Gadala-Maria v. Willis Group Holdings Public Limited Company, et al.*, Case No. 13-05669CA30, filed on February 14, 2013 in Florida state court (Miami-Dade County); (viii) *Ranni v. Willis Group Holdings Public Limited Company, et al.*, Case No. 13-05673CA06, filed on February 14, 2013 in Florida state court (Miami-Dade County); (ix) *Tisminesky v. Willis Group Holdings Public Limited Company, et al.*, Case No. 13-05676CA09, filed on February 14, 2013 in Florida state court (Miami-Dade County); (x) *Zacarias v. Willis Group Holdings Public Limited Company, et al.*, Case No. 13-05678CA11, filed on February 14, 2013 in Florida state court (Miami-Dade County); and (xi) *Martin v. Willis of Colorado, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 2016-52115, filed on August 5, 2016 in Texas state court (Harris County).

it is clear that the Willis Defendants would never agree to the terms of the Willis Settlement unless they were assured of global peace with respect to all claims that have been, could have been, or could be asserted against any of the Willis Defendants and any of the Willis Released Parties by any Person arising out of or related to the events leading to these proceedings, and with respect to all claims that have been, could have been, or could be asserted against any of the Willis Defendants and any of the Willis Released Parties by any Person arising from or related to the Willis Defendants' relationship with the Stanford Entities. The injunction against such claims is therefore a necessary and appropriate order ancillary to the relief obtained for victims of the Stanford Ponzi scheme pursuant to the Willis Settlement. *See Kaleta*, 530 F. App'x at 362 (entering bar order and injunction against investor claims as "ancillary relief" to a settlement in an SEC receivership proceeding); *Parish*, 2010 WL 8347143 (similar).

5. Pursuant to the Willis Settlement Agreement and upon motion by the Receiver in the SEC Action, this Court will approve a Distribution Plan that will fairly and reasonably distribute the net proceeds of the Willis Settlement to Stanford Investors who have claims approved by the Receiver. The Court finds that the Receiver's claims process and the Distribution Plan contemplated in the Willis Settlement Agreement have been designed to ensure that all Stanford Investors have received an opportunity to pursue their claims through the Receiver's claims process previously approved by the Court [SEC Action ECF No. 1584].

6. Accordingly, the Court finds that the Willis Settlement is, in all respects, fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in the best interests of all Persons claiming an interest in, having authority over, or asserting a claim against any of the Willis Defendants and any of the Willis Released Parties, the Stanford Entities or the Receivership Estate, including but not limited to the

plaintiffs in this action, the Troice-Janvey Plaintiffs, the Claimants, the Stanford Investors, the Interested Parties, the Receiver, and the Committee.

7. The Court hereby permanently bars, restrains and enjoins the plaintiffs in this action, the Receiver, the Troice-Janvey Plaintiffs, the Claimants, the Interested Parties, and all other Persons or entities, whether acting in concert with the foregoing or claiming by, through, or under the foregoing, or otherwise, all and individually, from directly, indirectly, or through a third party, instituting, reinstituting, intervening in, initiating, commencing, maintaining, continuing, filing, encouraging, soliciting, supporting, participating in, collaborating in, or otherwise prosecuting, against any of the Willis Defendants or any of the Willis Released Parties, now or at any time in the future, any action, lawsuit, cause of action, claim, investigation, demand, complaint, or proceeding of any nature, including but not limited to litigation, arbitration, or other proceeding, in any Forum, whether individually, derivatively, on behalf of a class, as a member of a class, or in any other capacity whatsoever, that in any way relates to, is based upon, arises from, or is connected with the Stanford Entities; this case; the Troice Litigation; the Janvey Litigation; the Other Willis Litigation; or the subject matter of this case, the Troice Litigation, the Janvey Litigation, the Other Willis Litigation or any Settled Claim. The foregoing specifically includes, but is not limited to, any claim, however denominated, seeking contribution, indemnity, damages, or other remedy where the alleged injury to such Person, entity, or Interested Party, or the claim asserted by such Person, entity, or Interested Party, is based upon such Person's, entity's, or Interested Party's liability to any plaintiff, Claimant, or Interested Party arising out of, relating to, or based in whole or in part upon money owed, demanded, requested, offered, paid, agreed to be paid, or required to be paid to any plaintiff, Claimant, Interested Party, or other Person or entity, whether pursuant to a demand, judgment,

claim, agreement, settlement or otherwise. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there shall be no bar of any claims, including but not limited to the Settled Claims, that any of the Willis Defendants may have against any Willis Released Party (other than any of the other Willis Defendants), including but not limited to its insurers, reinsurers, employees and agents. Further, the Parties to the Willis Settlement Agreement retain the right to sue for alleged breaches of the Willis Settlement Agreement.

8. Nothing in this Final Judgment and Bar Order shall impair or affect or be construed to impair or affect in any way whatsoever, any right of any Person, entity, or Interested Party to (a) claim a credit or offset, however determined or quantified, if and to the extent provided by any applicable statute, code, or rule of law, against any judgment amount, based upon the Willis Settlement or payment of the Settlement Amount by or on behalf of the Willis Defendants and the Willis Released Parties; (b) designate a “responsible third party” or “settling person” under Chapter 33 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code; or (c) take discovery under applicable rules in other litigation; provided for the avoidance of doubt that nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted to permit or authorize (x) any action or claim seeking to recover any monetary or other relief from any of the Willis Defendants or any of the Willis Released Parties, or (y) the commencement, assertion or continuation of any action or claim against any of the Willis Defendants or any of the Willis Released Parties, including any action or claim seeking to impose any liability of any kind (including but not limited to liability for contribution, indemnification or otherwise) upon any of the Willis Defendants or any of the Willis Released Parties.

9. The Willis Defendants and the Willis Released Parties have no responsibility, obligation, or liability whatsoever with respect to the cost associated with or the content of the

Notice; the notice process; the Distribution Plan; the implementation of the Distribution Plan; the administration of the Willis Settlement; the management, investment, disbursement, allocation, or other administration or oversight of the Settlement Amount, any other funds paid or received in connection with the Willis Settlement, or any portion thereof; the payment or withholding of Taxes; the determination, administration, calculation, review, or challenge of claims to the Settlement Amount, any portion of the Settlement Amount, or any other funds paid or received in connection with the Willis Settlement or the Willis Settlement Agreement; or any losses, attorneys' fees, expenses, vendor payments, expert payments, or other costs incurred in connection with any of the foregoing matters. No appeal, challenge, decision, or other matter concerning any subject set forth in this paragraph shall operate to terminate, cancel or modify the Willis Settlement, the Willis Settlement Agreement or this Final Judgment and Bar Order.

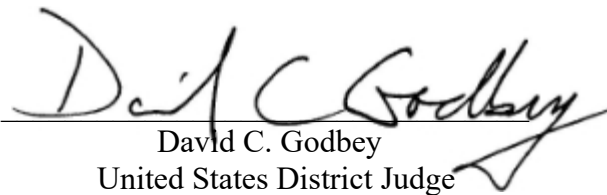
10. Nothing in this Final Judgment and Bar Order, the Final Bar Order or the Willis Settlement Agreement and no aspect of the Willis Settlement or negotiation thereof is or shall be construed to be an admission or concession of any violation of any statute or law, of any fault, liability or wrongdoing, or of any infirmity in the claims or defenses of the parties with regard to any of the complaints, claims, allegations or defenses in this action, the Troice Litigation, the Janvey Litigation, the Other Willis Litigation, or any other proceeding. The Willis Defendants have always denied and continue to expressly deny any liability or wrongdoing with respect to the matters alleged in the complaints in this action, the Troice Litigation, the Janvey Litigation, the Other Willis Litigation, and any other claims related to the Stanford Entities.

11. Without in any way affecting the finality of this Final Judgment and Bar Order, the Court retains continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over the parties to this action for purposes of, among other things, the administration, interpretation, consummation, and enforcement of the

Willis Settlement, the Willis Settlement Agreement, the Scheduling Order, the Final Bar Order and this Final Judgment and Bar Order, including, without limitation, the injunctions, bar orders, and releases herein, and to enter orders concerning implementation of the Willis Settlement, the Willis Settlement Agreement, and the Distribution Plan.

12. All relief that is not expressly granted herein is denied. This is a final judgment. The Clerk of the Court is directed to enter Judgment in conformity herewith.

Signed on August 23, 2017.


David C. Godbey
United States District Judge